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[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2676

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/853,602	NIEMI, SAMI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Greg Cunningham	2676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 May 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>4,5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications of application filed //2001.
2. The disposition of the claims is as follows: claims 1-32 are pending in the application.
Claims 1 and 20 are independent claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 3/8/2002 for "Just-in-time Browsing" fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because it is dated 27-29, March 2001, after the claimed priority date of 2/2/2001 and therefore is not considered prior art. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609 ¶ C(1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

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5. Claims 1, 4,-8, 10, 20, 21, 23 and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being disclosed by Martin et al., (US Patent Number 6147709 A), hereafter Martin.

A. Claim 1 is disclosed by Martin in abstract at “A method of inserting a high resolution image into a low resolution interactive image provides a greater sensation of virtual reality (presence) because increased magnification of the low resolution image, typically a wide angle image, reduces the sensation of virtual presence in the image. For example, according to the invention, as an image of the wall of an art gallery becomes magnified in a virtual presence experience, a rectangular or other planar image portion such as a painting that the user zooms on ‘*one preselected, zoomable area,*’ is replaced with a high resolution image stored and associated in memory ‘*continuously zooming (26) in on the preselected area in the presentation image*’. The virtual presence may be achieved by high resolution scanning a desired section of an image portion for overlay into the image scanned into a second memory at lower resolution. The high resolution image for insertion may be a dewarped portion of a fish-eye lens captured interactive image ‘*improving (30) the resolution of the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image on the display device by means of the loaded detail image information data set when the zooming in on the preselected area in the presentation image is complete*’. Preferably, at least three reference points in the wide angle image and the planar image portion for insertion, such as the painting image, are identified and stored with the image data and a selected or predetermined magnification level. In this manner, the three image points can be manipulated and matched from the high resolution image to the perspective of the wide angle image. Also, for identity of perspective, the wide angle and high resolution images may be captured from the identical camera location. As the user inputs viewing angle criteria, such as pan and tilt angles, the

rectangular image may be manipulated to match. The camera may be digital or analog, video, movie or still. Also, a high resolution photographic image may be inserted into a graphic image or vice versa.”

and in col. 3, lns. 58-67 at “Once the high resolution image is matched and inserted into the interactive image, the user of the present system will be able to view the high resolution image(s) as a substitute for the lower image resolution interactive image portion overlaid. Also, as the viewer selects new pan and tilt angles, the high resolution image moves with the interactive image as a composite whole. If the viewer continues to magnify the high resolution image portion, the high resolution image pixels will provide the increased resolution the viewer requests.”

and in col. 4, ln. 63 – col. 5, ln. 6 at “In accordance with U.S. Pat. 5,185,667, the low resolution input file, for example, a wide angle or fisheye lens captured file is stored at a local computer processor to its user. The computer processor may be the user's personal computer processor and the file digitally downloaded to the processor from a remote processor over the Internet, over telephone data lines or other media, for example, as taught by U.S. Pat. No. 5,384,588. In advance of transmission, the digital files may be compressed using a known standard, for example, MPEG2 or H.263.”

B. Claim 4, ‘The method according to claim 1, wherein the detail image information data set comprises a detail image representing the preselected area in higher resolution than the presentation image.’ is disclosed supra for claim 1, particularly at “For example, according to the invention, as an image of the wall of an art gallery becomes magnified in a virtual presence

experience, a rectangular or other planar image portion such as a painting that the user zooms on is replaced with a high resolution image stored and associated in memory.”

C. Claim 5, ‘*The method according to claim 4, wherein the step of improving the resolution comprises the step of replacing the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image on the display device with the detail image when the zooming in on the preselected area in the presentation image is complete.*’ is disclosed supra for claim 4, particularly at “a rectangular or other planar image portion such as a painting that the user zooms on is replaced with a high resolution image stored and associated in memory.”

D. Claim 6, ‘*The method according to claim 3 or 5, further comprising the step of zooming out from a detail image that is being presented on the display device, said step of zooming out comprising the steps of: replacing the detail image on the display device by the corresponding completely zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image, subsequently continuously zooming out from the corresponding area of the presentation image until the entire presentation image is presented.*’ is disclosed supra for claim 5 and in col. 5, lns. 54-60 at “(14) Now, when the user demagnifies or returns to an original position, the process may be remembered, modified and/or restored. Alternatively, the high resolution image may have an associated data file providing the address in memory of the associated interactive file so that at the selected angle of magnification, the associated interactive file border can be restored to the high resolution image.”

E. Claim 7, ‘*The method according to claim 1, wherein the presentation image is being presented in a window on the display device and wherein the continuous zooming is performed in the same window, whereby the preselected area is expanded/reduced over the presentation*

image so that the preselected area gradually covers a greater/smaller part of the presentation image.' is disclosed in col. 5, lns. 35-53 at "(12) The high resolution image 3 or a portion thereof as required is inserted into the perspective corrected lower resolution image 2 and as the image is further magnified, most of the low resolution image becomes replaced by the higher image resolution '*the preselected area gradually covers a greater/smaller part of the presentation image.*' painting 3 in image sequence. Referring to FIG. 3a, the wall image 300 is becoming increasingly magnified as the user zooms in on picture 301. FIG. 3a may represent that degree of magnification when the perspective corrected image portion 300 is to be overlaid with high resolution image 301. Three or more points in the image portion 301 are matched with corresponding points in the perspective corrected image 300 by comparing their pixel values and adjacent pixel values. Corner values or values that show high degrees of differentiation from adjacent pixels are preferred for a more perfect match.

(13) Referring to FIG. 3b, the painting image portion 302 can be magnified beyond the degree of magnification selected for image overlay and insertion. While image portion 303 may be blurred from increasing magnification of the surrounding wall, the painting 302 is sharp and focused."

F. Claim 8, '*The method according to claim 1, wherein the presentation image is being presented in a window on the display device and wherein the continuous zooming is performed in the same window so that a gradually smaller/greater part of the presentation image is shown in the window during the continuous zooming.*' is disclosed in col. 5, lns. 35-53 at "(12) The high resolution image 3 or a portion thereof as required is inserted into the perspective corrected lower resolution image 2 and as the image is further magnified, most of the low resolution image

becomes replaced by the higher image resolution '*gradually smaller/greater part of the presentation image is shown in the window during the continuous zooming.*' painting 3 in image sequence. Referring to FIG. 3a, the wall image 300 is becoming increasingly magnified as the user zooms in on picture 301. FIG. 3a may represent that degree of magnification when the perspective corrected image portion 300 is to be overlaid with high resolution image 301. Three or more points in the image portion 301 are matched with corresponding points in the perspective corrected image 300 by comparing their pixel values and adjacent pixel values. Corner values or values that show high degrees of differentiation from adjacent pixels are preferred for a more perfect match.

(13) Referring to FIG. 3b, the painting image portion 302 can be magnified beyond the degree of magnification selected for image overlay and insertion. While image portion 303 may be blurred from increasing magnification of the surrounding wall, the painting 302 is sharp and focused."

G. Claim 10, "*The method according to claim 1, wherein the boundaries of the preselected, zoomable areas in the presentation image are indicated in the presentation image to highlight the preselected, zoomable areas.*" is disclosed supra for claim 7, particularly at "Referring to FIG. 3a, the wall image 300 is becoming increasingly magnified as the user zooms in on picture 301. FIG. 3a may represent that degree of magnification when the perspective corrected image portion 300 is to be overlaid with high resolution image 301. Three or more points in the image portion 301 are matched with corresponding points in the perspective corrected image 300 by comparing their pixel values and adjacent pixel values. Corner values or values that show high degrees of differentiation from adjacent pixels are preferred for a more perfect match."

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H. Per independent claim 20, this is directed to a method for provide the method of independent claim 1, and therefore is rejected to independent claim 1, and in col. 5, lns. 5-6 at “In advance of transmission, the digital files may be compressed using a known standard, for example, MPEG2 or H.263.”

I. Per dependent claim 21, this is directed to a method for provide the method of dependent claim 4, and therefore is rejected to dependent claim 4 and independent claim 20, and in col. 5, lns. 5-6 at “In advance of transmission, the digital files may be compressed using a known standard, for example, MPEG2 or H.263.”

J. Per dependent claim 23, this is directed to a method for provide the method of dependent claim 4, and therefore is rejected to dependent claim 4 and dependent claim 21, and in col. 2, lns. 3-8 at “(10) A method of inserting a high resolution image into an interactive lower resolution image comprises the steps of storing the typically lower resolution interactive image, storing the high resolution image to be inserted, receiving selection signals related to insertion and positioning of the high resolution image in the interactive image, and outputting a composite image.”

K. Per dependent claims 27, 28, 29 and 30, this is directed to a method for provide the method of dependent claims 8, 5, 14, and 15, respectively, and therefore are rejected to dependent claims 8, 5, 14, and 15 and independent claim 21, and in col. 5, lns. 5-6 at “In advance of transmission, the digital files may be compressed using a known standard, for example, MPEG2 or H.263.”

L. Per dependent claim 31 and 32, these are directed to a method for provide the method of dependent claim 4, and therefore are rejected to dependent claim 4 and independent claim 21,

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and in col. 1, lns. 46-54 at "(7) Generally, these technologies involve interactive computer photography based upon digital input to the computer processor of photographic images obtained using standard, wide angle or fisheye lenses or mirrors to reflect a wide angle image into a standard lens. After initial processing of the digitized images to join them together, the technologies further permit the user to interactively select viewing angles for viewing the digitized and processed image and magnification (or zoom) values to view selected portions in detail."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 11, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al., (US Patent Number 6,147,709) as applied to claims 1, ***** above, and further in view of Sivan et al., (US Patent Number 6,281,874B1), hereafter Sivan.

A. Claim 2 is disclosed by Martin *supra* for claim 1. However Martin does not appear to disclose '*wherein the detail image information data set comprises a difference image, said difference image representing the difference between the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image and a detail image representing the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in higher resolution.*', but Sivan does in col. 8, lns. 3-13 at "(22) The speed of downloading data can be further enhanced by performing the same pseudo-zooming of the image at the server as was

previously performed by the client as explained above. The server extracts the corresponding high-resolution image data, compares with the pseudo-zoomed low-resolution image data received from the client and sends to the client only a compressed difference image. The high-resolution zoomed image is now re-constructed at the client. This allows a smaller volume of data to be downloaded to the client than would be necessary if all of the selected portion of the high-resolution image were downloaded."

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply zooming disclosed by Martin in combination with difference image zooming disclosed by Sivan, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would further enhanced the speed of downloading data as revealed by Sivan in col. 8, line 14.

B. Claim 3, '*The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of improving the resolution comprises the steps of adding the difference image to the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image to generate a detail image of the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in higher resolution and replacing the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image on the display device by the detail image.*' is inherently disclosed by Martin and Sivan supra for claim 2.

C. Claim 6, '*The method according to claim 3 or 5, further comprising the step of zooming out from a detail image that is being presented on the display device, said step of zooming out comprising the steps of: replacing the detail image on the display device by the corresponding completely zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image, subsequently continuously zooming out from the corresponding area of the presentation image until the entire presentation image is presented.*' is disclosed supra for claim 3 and by Martin in col. 5, lns. 54-60 at "(14)" Now, when the user demagnifies or returns to an original position, the process may be

remembered, modified and/or restored. Alternatively, the high resolution image may have an associated data file providing the address in memory of the associated interactive file so that at the selected angle of magnification, the associated interactive file border can be restored to the high resolution image.”

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply demagnifying disclosed by Martin in combination with difference image zooming disclosed by Sivan, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would further enhanced the speed of downloading data as revealed by Sivan in col. 8, line 14.

D. *Claim 9, “The method according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the detail image fills the window when replacing the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image.”* is disclosed by Martin supra for claims 7 or 8. However Martin does not disclose “*wherein the detail image fills the window when replacing the zoomed-in-on, preselected area in the presentation image.*”, but Sivan does in col. 4, ln. 66 – col. 5, ln. 8 at “(4) Having uploaded the size data from the client to the server, the selected portion of the high-resolution graphic image file is extracted from the Web server and downloaded to the client. Thus, in the above example, the 200,000 pixels in the high-resolution image file corresponding to the 12,500 pixels in the selected portion are downloaded to the client where they are displayed on the display device. Since the display device is assumed to possess only 200,000 pixels, in this case the zoomed image completely fills the display device.”

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply zooming disclosed by Martin in combination with completely

filling the display device disclosed by Sivan, and motivated to combine the teachings because it is assumed to bear a fixed predetermined relationship with that of the reference image: equal to the maximum zoom ratio as revealed by Sivan in col. 5, lns. 9-11.

E. *Claim 11, 'The method according to claim 3 or 4, wherein a detail image comprises preselected, zoomable areas and zooming in on one of these preselected areas is performed in the same manner as for the presentation image.'* is disclosed supra for claim 3.

F. Per dependent claim 22, this is directed to a method for provide the method of dependent claim 2, and therefore is rejected to dependent claim 2 and dependent claim 21, and in col. 5, lns. 5-6 at "In advance of transmission, the digital files may be compressed using a known standard, for example, MPEG2 or H.263."

G. Per dependent claim 24, this is directed to a method for provide the method of dependent claim 9, and therefore is rejected to dependent claim 9 and dependent claim 21.

8. Claims 12-14, 16-19, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin and Sivan as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Malloy Desormeaux, (US Patent Number 6,526,234 B1), hereafter Desormeaux.

A. *Claim 12, 'The method according to claim 3, wherein meta data is associated with at least one of the presentation image and the detail images.'* is disclose supra for claim 3.

However Martin and Sivan do not appear to disclose '*wherein meta data is associated with at least one of the presentation image and the detail images.*', but Desormeaux does in col. 5, lns. 6-12 at "After further modification, the electronic images are referred to generically herein by the term "derived images". Derived images are modified relative to the original images. This

can be for calibration to the display or a particular file structure, or matching to output media. These modifications may or may not also include the addition of metadata.”

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply zooming disclosed by Martin in combination with metadata disclosed by Desormeaux, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would allow modification relative to the original image as revealed by Desormeaux in col. 6, lines 6-7.

B. *Claim 13, ‘The method according to claim 4, wherein meta data is associated with at least one of the presentation image and the detail images.’* is disclose supra for claim 4.

However Martin does not appear to disclose ‘*wherein meta data is associated with at least one of the presentation image and the detail images.*’, but Desormeaux does in col. 5, lns. 6-12 at “After further modification, the electronic images are referred to generically herein by the term “derived images”. Derived images are modified relative to the original images. This can be for calibration to the display or a particular file structure, or matching to output media. These modifications may or may not also include the addition of metadata.”

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply zooming disclosed by Martin in combination with metadata disclosed by Desormeaux, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would allow modification relative to the original image as revealed by Desormeaux in col. 6, lines 6-7.

C. *Claim 16, “The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the meta data associated with an image is shown when the image is presented on the display device”* is disclosed supra for claims 12 or 13.

(Examiner's note: suggest applicant elaborate how meta data is employed, since mere pixel data is meta data sufficient.)

D. Claim 17, "The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the meta data associated with a detail image is shown when a marker on the display device is in a corresponding area of the presentation image" is disclosed *supra* for claims 12 or 13.

(Examiner's note: suggest applicant elaborate how meta data is employed, since mere pixel data is meta data sufficient.)

E. Claim 18, "The method according to claim 1, wherein the preselected areas are arbitrarily orientated in the presentation image." is disclosed by Martin *supra* for claim 1. However Martin does not disclose, "wherein the preselected areas are arbitrarily orientated in the presentation image", but Desormeaux does in col. 17, lns. 14-27 at "(62) Following successful capture of the original electronic image, exposure information for the derived scene image is analyzed for common photographer errors and oversights, and, responsive to that analyzing, one or more revision suggestions for changes in an ensuing capture of an archival image of the same subject matter are displayed to the user. The exposure information can include such information as rangefinder data on the regions 90 corresponding to the derived scene image, the camera orientation, the selected print format (aspect ratio), and brightness and color information for different areas of the image. The camera orientation is provided by a camera orientation sensor 134."

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply zooming disclosed by Martin in combination with orientation

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disclosed by Desormeaux, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would be successful capture of the original electronic image as revealed by Desormeaux in col. 17, ln. 14.\

F. Claim 19, "The method according to claim 18, wherein the continuous zooming in the presentation image includes a simultaneous rotation of the presentation image to fit the orientation of the preselected area into the window." is disclosed supra for claim 18 and in addition by Martin in col. 2, lns. 15-23 at "Thus, at first, the high resolution image replaces the lower resolution interactive image when a level of magnification of the interactive image is exceeded and continues to replace the lower resolution image as magnification increases. Moreover, the rectangular image may be made to "travel" through the interactive image in an interactive composite image, for example, by further increase in magnification or zoom, or by selection of different viewing angles such as pan, tilt and rotation."

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply zooming and orientation disclosed by Martin in combination with orientation disclosed by Desormeaux, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would they both employ features for orientation.

G. Claim 14, "14. The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the meta data comprises search criteria to enable a user to search for a specific detail image." is disclosed supra for claims 12 or 13 and by Martin in col. 5, lns. 16-18 at "To do so, an associated data file with the interactive image file provides the address in memory for any associated high resolution image(s) or image portion to be inserted." and col. 5, lns. 57-60 at "Alternatively, the high resolution image may have an associated data file providing the address in memory of the

associated interactive file so that at the selected angle of magnification, the associated interactive file border can be restored to the high resolution image.”

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply zooming and orientation disclosed by Martin in combination with associated data file disclosed by Martin, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would obviously provide the information source.

H. Per dependent claims 25 and 26, these are directed to a method for provide the method of dependent claims 18 and 19, respectively, and therefore are rejected to dependent claims 18 and 19 and independent claim 20, and in col. 5, lns. 5-6 at “In advance of transmission, the digital files may be compressed using a known standard, for example, MPEG2 or H.263.”

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply zooming and orientation disclosed by Martin in combination with orientation disclosed by Desormeaux, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would they both employ features for orientation.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responses

10. Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 308-9051 may be used for formal communications or (703) 308-6606 for informal or draft communications.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Inquiries

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Cunningham whose telephone number is (703) 308-6109. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached on (703) 308-6829.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

G. F. Cunningham
gfc

June 5, 2003

Matthew C. Bella
MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600